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(71) Applicant (for GB only): GOLDING, Louise [GB/Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).	/GB]; 1	Published	
(72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): KELLAR, [US/US]; Nycomed Inc., 466 Devon Park Drive, 6630, Wayne, PA 19087–8630 (US).			

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(57) Abstract

The invention relates to the use as a contrast agent in MR imaging of a physiologically tolerable lanthanide compound or salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which differ in relaxivity by a factor of at least 5, and which is convertible *in vivo* from said first to said second oxidation state whereby contrast is enhanced in a body region in which conversion to said second state does or does not occur.